

## CLAIMS

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:
  - an information reading unit adapted to read  
5 information from a portable storage medium;
  - an information writing unit adapted to write information into the portable storage medium, said information writing unit being adapted to write area information indicating whether or not the portable  
10 storage medium exists in a predetermined area;
  - a storage unit adapted to store the information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit and the information written into the portable storage medium by said information  
15 writing unit; and
  - a control unit adapted to control said information reading unit and said information writing unit,
- wherein, when the area information read from  
20 the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to preclude from reading predetermined information stored in the portable  
25 storage medium, and to control said information writing unit to write the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does not exist in

the predetermined area.

2. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium by  
5 said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to control said information reading unit to read the predetermined information from the portable storage medium and  
10 store the read predetermined information in said storage unit.

3. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium by  
15 said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to delete the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium.

20 4. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined  
25 area, said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to write reading-preclusive information for precluding from reading the

predetermined information from the portable storage medium into the portable storage medium.

5. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, when the area  
5 information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to be able to  
10 read the predetermined information from the portable storage medium.

6. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein, when the area  
information read from the portable storage medium by  
15 said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to write the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium  
20 into the portable storage medium.

7. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an administration unit adapted to administrate specific information, stored in the portable storage  
25 medium, for specifying the portable storage medium;

a judgment unit adapted to judge whether or not the specific information read from the portable

storage medium by said information reading unit matches with the specific information administrated by said administration unit,

wherein, when it is judged by said judgment  
5 unit that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated by said administration unit, said control unit is adapted to preclude from reading the predetermined information stored in the portable  
10 storage medium.

8. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a warning unit adapted to give warning when it is judged by said judgment unit that the specific information read  
15 from the portable storage medium does not match with the specific information administrated by said administration unit.

9. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein, when the area  
20 information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area and it is further judged by said judgment unit that the specific information read from  
25 the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated by said administration unit, said control unit is adapted to control said

information writing unit to be able to read the predetermined information from the portable storage medium.

10. An information processing apparatus  
5 according to Claim 7, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to preclude from  
10 reading the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium and designated to be secret, and to control said information writing unit to write the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined  
15 area.

11. An information processing apparatus  
according to Claim 1, wherein  
the portable storage medium is a storage medium  
to which communication is possible in non-contact  
20 manner,

said information reading unit is adapted to write the information into the portable storage medium in non-contact manner, and

said information writing unit is adapted to  
25 read the information from the portable storage medium in non-contact manner.

12. An information processing method comprising:

an information reading step of reading information from a portable storage medium; and

5 an information writing step of writing information into the portable storage medium, said information writing step being adapted to write area information indicating whether or not the portable storage medium exists in a predetermined area,

10 wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said information writing step is adapted to preclude from  
15 reading predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium, and to write the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area.

13. An information processing method according  
20 to Claim 12, further comprising a storage step of, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, reading the predetermined  
25 information from the portable storage medium and storing the read predetermined information in another storage medium different from the portable storage

medium.

14. An information processing method according to Claim 13, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information  
5 reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said information writing step is adapted to delete the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium.

10 15. An information processing method according to Claim 12, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said  
15 information writing step is adapted to write reading-preclusive information for precluding from reading the predetermined information from the portable storage medium into the portable storage medium.

16. An information processing method according  
20 to Claim 12, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area, said information writing step is adapted to be able to  
25 read the predetermined information from the portable storage medium.

17. An information processing method according to Claim 14, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage  
5 medium exists in the predetermined area, said information writing step is adapted to write the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium into the portable storage medium.

18. An information processing method according to Claim 12, further comprising a judgment step of  
10 judging whether or not specific information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step matches with specific information administrated in another storage medium,

15 wherein, when it is judged in said judgment step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated in the another storage medium, said information writing step is adapted to  
20 preclude from reading the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium.

19. An information processing method according to Claim 18, further comprising a warning step of  
25 giving warning when it is judged in said judgment step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium does not match with the specific information administrated in the another



storage medium.

20. An information processing method according to Claim 18, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information  
5 reading step indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area and it is further judged in said judgment step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information  
10 administrated in the another storage medium, said information writing step is adapted to be able to read the predetermined information from the portable storage medium.

21. An information processing method according  
15 to Claim 18, wherein, when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said information writing step is adapted to preclude from  
20 reading the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium and designated to be secret, and to write the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area.

25 22. An information processing method according to Claim 12, wherein

the portable storage medium is a storage medium

to which communication is possible in non-contact manner,

said information reading step is adapted to write the information into the portable storage  
5 medium in non-contact manner, and

said information writing step is adapted to read the information from the portable storage medium in non-contact manner.